

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7611

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CT

SUBJECT: STATUS OF SCED DISPUTE

REF: BANGUI 1699

1. I WAS ABLE TO MEET BRIEFLY WITH MINISTER BANGUE-TANDET AT THE PRESIDENCY SEPTEMBER 13 TO DISCUSS BOTH AIDSAT (REPORTED SEPTTEL) AND SCED. I TOLD BANGUE-TANDET THAT WE WERE CONCERNED THAT THE GOCAR HAD NOT RESPONDED EITHER TO THE LETTER OR THE TELEGRAM FROM FORMER SECRETARY ROGERS. THE PROPOSED DATES FOR NEGOTIATIONS WERE FAST APPROACHING AND MR. JOLIS AND HIS COLLEAGUES NEEDED TO KNOW WHETHER THEY WOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT.

2. BANGUE-TANDET REVIEWED HIS OWN TRAVEL PLANS, AND SOME OF THOSE OF THE PRESIDENT WHICH MADE CLEAR THAT THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE OCTOBER 20 AND SOME UNCERTAINTY THEREAFTER. STATE VISITS TO BANGUI, THE PRESIDENT'S PROBABLY TRAVELS TO EUROPE AND EGYPT AND BANGUE-TANDET'S OWN PLANS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN EUROPE COMPLETELY TIE UP NEXT SIX WEEKS. BANGUE-TANDET REITERATED PRESIDENT'S DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH JOLIS, WHO HAD A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESIDENT WHICH THE PRESIDENT VALUED AND WISHED TO PERSERVE. HE IMPLIED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS WAITING FOR SOME SORT OF CONCRETE PROPOSAL FROM JOLIS. THE MEETING CLOSED WITH MY AGAIN STRONGLY URGING A RESPONSE TO THE ROGERS' TELEX. BANGUE-TANDET SAID HE WOULD SPEAK TO THE PRESIDENT TODAY TO SEE IF A RESPONSE COULD BE EXPEDITED.

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3. COMMENT: ON THE BASIS OF MY CONVERSATION, I GET NO SENSE

OF URGENCY AT THE PRESIDENCY ABOUT EARLY NEGOTIATIONS AND
WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF ISSUE IS ALLOWED TO DRAG ON UNTIL
THE END OF THE YEAR. IT IS LIKELY THAT PRESIDENT BOKASSA,
HAVING GIVEN EXPLORATION MINING RIGHTS TO FIRST ARABIAN, IS
WAITING TO SEE WHETHER THEY CAN DELIVER THE GOODS AND INCREASE
THE CAR'S DIAMOND PRODUCTION. IF THEY CAN, SCED HAS LITTLE
CHANCE OF AN AMICABLE SOLUTION. COPPERMAN IS PERSONALLY
CONVINCED THAT FIRST ARABIAN WILL BE UNABLE TO INCREASE
PRODUCTION AND THAT ULTIMATELY THE PRESIDENT WILL COME TO REALIZE
THAT IT HAS NO REAL ALTERNATIVE BUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH JOLIS.
QUAINTON

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